

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A voice messaging system with speakerphone capability, comprising:

- a microphone signal;
- a speakerphone loudspeaker;
- ~~a gain module;~~
- a hybrid echo canceller;
- an automatic gain control module;

a message playback signal relating to a pre-recorded voice message; and

- ~~a summer in a transmit path;~~

wherein said message playback signal is combined with said microphone signal before to said hybrid echo canceller and after said automatic gain control module for transmission over a telephone line such that said far end user can hear said microphone signal and said message playback signal, while said far end user can simultaneously speak through said speakerphone loudspeaker~~[[,]] allowing full duplex communications.~~

2. (currently amended) The voice messaging system with speakerphone capability according to claim 1, further comprising:

- a fixed message gain module to process said message playback signal ~~between said message playback signal and said summer.~~

3. (previously presented) The voice messaging system with speakerphone capability according to claim 2, wherein said message gain module comprises:

- an automatic gain control portion; and
- a fixed gain portion.

4. (previously presented) The voice messaging system with speakerphone capability according to claim 1, wherein said gain module comprises:

a automatic gain control portion; and
a fixed gain control portion.

5. (previously presented) The voice messaging system with speakerphone capability according to claim 1, further comprising:

a switched loss echo suppression module in said transmit path after said gain module.

6. (previously presented) The voice messaging system with speakerphone capability according to claim 5, wherein:

said message playback signal is combined with said microphone signal at a point in said transmit path after said switched loss echo suppression module.

7. (previously presented) The voice messaging system with speakerphone capability according to claim 6, further comprising:

a digital to analog converter in said transmit path at a point after said switched loss echo suppression module.

8. (previously presented) The voice messaging system with speakerphone capability according to claim 1, further comprising:

a transmit voice activity detector in communication with said transmit path, said transmit voice activity detector indicating a transmit condition of said speakerphone.

9. (previously presented) The voice messaging system with speakerphone capability according to claim 1, wherein:

said voice messaging system is a telephone answering device.

10. (currently amended) A method of transmitting a microphone signal and a played back user pre-recorded voice signal to a far end party over a telephone line using a speakerphone, while simultaneously outputting a voice signal received from said far end user over a loudspeaker of said speakerphone, comprising:

establishing a telephone call;

initiating a transmit function of a speakerphone generating a microphone signal;

playing back a voice message pre-recorded on said speakerphone generating a playback message signal;

combining said microphone signal with said playback message signal before performing hybrid echo cancellation and after performing automatic gain control; and

transmitting said combined microphone signal and playback signal to a far end party over said telephone line while said far end party simultaneously speaks through said loudspeaker of said speakerphone.

11. (previously presented) The method of transmitting a microphone signal and a played back pre-recorded voice signal to a far end party over a telephone line using a speakerphone while simultaneously outputting a voice signal received from said far end user over a loudspeaker of said speakerphone according to claim 10, further comprising:

adjusting a gain of said microphone signal.

12. (previously presented) The method of transmitting a microphone signal and a played back pre-recorded voice signal to a far end party over a telephone line using a speakerphone while simultaneously outputting a voice signal received from said far end user over a loudspeaker of said speakerphone according to claim 11, further comprising:

adjusting a gain of said playback message signal.

13. (previously presented) The method of transmitting a microphone signal and a played back pre-recorded voice signal to a far end party over a telephone line using a speakerphone while simultaneously outputting a voice signal received from said far end user over a loudspeaker of said speakerphone according to claim 11, wherein:

said adjusting similarly adjusts a gain of both said microphone signal and said playback message signal.

14. (previously presented) The method of transmitting a microphone signal and a played back pre-recorded voice signal to a far end party over a telephone line using a speakerphone while simultaneously outputting a voice signal received from said far end user over a loudspeaker of said speakerphone according to claim 11, wherein:

said combining occurs at a point in a transmit path after a gain of said microphone signal is adjusted.

15. (currently amended) Apparatus for transmitting a microphone signal and a played back user pre-recorded voice signal to a far end party over a telephone line using a speakerphone while simultaneously outputting a voice signal received from said far end user over a loudspeaker of said speakerphone, comprising:

means for establishing a telephone call;

means for initiating a transmit function of a speakerphone generating a microphone signal;

means for playing back a voice message pre-recorded on said speakerphone generating a playback message signal;

means for combining said microphone signal with said playback message signal before performing hybrid echo cancellation and after performing automatic gain control; and

means for transmitting said combined microphone signal and playback signal to a far end party over said telephone line while said far end party simultaneously speaks through said loudspeaker of said speakerphone.

16. (previously presented) The apparatus for transmitting a microphone signal and a played back pre-recorded voice signal to a far end party over a telephone line using a speakerphone while simultaneously outputting a voice signal received from said far end user over a loudspeaker of said speakerphone according to claim 15, further comprising:

means for adjusting a gain of said microphone signal.

17. (previously presented) The apparatus for transmitting a microphone signal and a played back pre-recorded voice signal to a far end party over a telephone line using a speakerphone while simultaneously outputting a voice signal received from said far end user over a loudspeaker of said speakerphone according to claim 15, further comprising:

means for adjusting a gain of said playback message signal.

18. (previously presented) The apparatus for transmitting a microphone signal and a played back pre-recorded voice signal to a far end party over a telephone line using a speakerphone while simultaneously outputting a voice signal received from said far end user over a loudspeaker of said speakerphone according to claim 15, wherein:

said means for adjusting similarly adjusts a gain of both said microphone signal and said playback message signal.

19. (previously presented) The apparatus for transmitting a microphone signal and a played back pre-recorded voice signal to a far end party over a telephone line using a speakerphone while simultaneously outputting a voice signal received from said far end user over a loudspeaker of said speakerphone according to claim 16, wherein:

said means for combining combines said microphone signal with said playback message signal at a point in a transmit path after said means for adjusting said microphone signal.